

Motivation

In addition to active citizen participation, good governance requires freedom of the press, and a balance of power between the various branches of government, accountability, transparency, and sound legislative decision-making. This often requires legislators to spend a great deal of time and a deep understanding of the issues that need to be addressed [1].

Judges have a very important role in a democratic constitutional state, such as protecting fundamental rights and freedoms, supervising compliance with the law and the constitution, and, last but not least, guarding the principles of democracy. This fact also points to the importance of transparency, quality and public control of judicial decision-making [2].

Situations associated with the activity or inaction of a judge that violate the principle of legal certainty include deviation from established case law or deviation from a previous decision of higher or highest judicial authorities [3]. Judicial decisions should therefore show a high degree of predictability and should not deviate significantly from established case law. Predictive artificial intelligence methods often work with historical data, based on which they try to estimate the most likely output when entering a previously unknown input, which in this case, provides a good basis for their use in the legal field. For the reasons described above, it would be appropriate to train a model that would well capture the patterns of decision-making practice, and therefore which would be able to identify whether a particular decision deviates from this practice.



Using Large Language Models for Analyzing Decisions of Slovak Courts

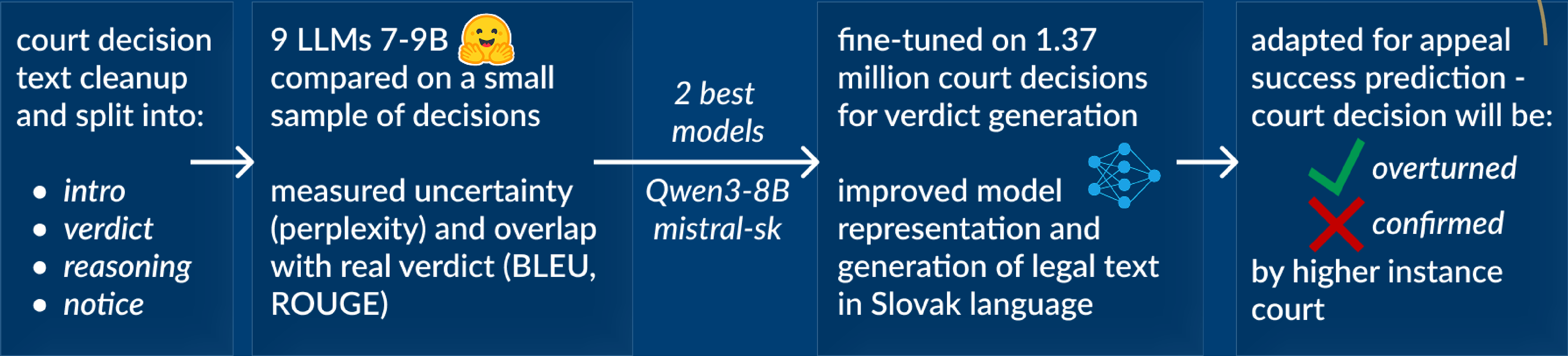
Author: Ing. Bianka Šimková

Supervisor: doc. Ing. Peter Bednár, PhD.

Institute of Artificial Intelligence, Technical University of Košice



Methodology & Findings



Contributions

The result is the first Slovak model specially trained on slovak court decisions and a model for predicting appeal success. The model captures the decision-making practice of Slovak courts, which can serve as an independent layer of supervision by identifying statistically unusual patterns, e.g. unjustified deviations in sentencing in factually similar cases, inconsistent application of legal norms or sudden changes in the decision-making practice. It also serves as a good foundation for further research in this area. The application of the model could also bring direct economic savings by identifying deviations from established decision-making practice. If the decision is not significantly deviated, this should also mean a lower probability of its (successful) appeal, and thus reduce the burden on the judicial system in appeal proceedings.

The author was awarded 1st place in the Law vs. Technology competition, organized by the Supreme Administrative Court of the Slovak Republic. The winning work, focused on mapping the current state of knowledge in this field, will be published in the peer-reviewed Journal of Administrative Justice.

References

1. Tonn, B., Stiefel, D.: The future of governance and the use of advanced information technologies. *Futures* 44(9), 812–822 (2012).
2. Wilfling, P.: Prístup verejnosti k súdnym rozhodnutiam na Slovensku. In: *Presvedčivosť a transparentnosť rozhodovania súdov*, pp. 14–15. VIA IURIS – Centrum pre práva občana, Bratislava (2010).
3. Mrva, M.: Sudca a právna istota. In: Gábriš, T. (ed.) *Sudcovské rozhodovanie: Záruky a prekážky spravodlivého procesu*, p. 113. Wolters Kluwer, Bratislava (2018).



Podcast



Paper